

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. I opposed the approval of the corporate mergers that resulted in few large media companies, and this is the reason. My fears are being realized. A similar thing happened in Canada, and the news service there, on specific issues of interest to the media ownership, are terribly skewed and unreliable.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. When large companies control the airwaves, we get special interests being served in order to curry favor with the current power elite, and less of what we need for our democracy. The press becomes its own lobby.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.